

REMARKS

The Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 5 and 7-13 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated over U.S. Patent 6,510,417 by Woods et al. (hereinafter "Woods"). The Examiner rejected claims 6 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over "Woods" as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent 5,970,446 by Goldberg et al. (hereinafter "Goldberg"). The Examiner rejected claims 15-23 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over "Woods" in view of U.S. Patent 5,774,525 by Kanevsky et al. (hereinafter "Kanevsky").

No claims have been amended, canceled or added. Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 5 and 7-13 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated over U.S. Patent 6,510,417 by Woods et al. (hereinafter "Woods").

In regards to claim 1, Applicant asserts that Woods does not anticipate claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e). Applicant reserves the right to swear behind the effective prior art date of this reference. Claim 1 states:

1. A system comprising:
 - a user;
 - a module to identify the user;
 - a voice user interface to facilitate communications between the user and the system;
 - a database to store contextual information pertaining to the user; and

the system to use user-specific contextual information to dynamically change the voice user interface, wherein the voice user interface alters navigational options through the voice user interface that are presented to the user based upon environmental information at the location of the user.

(Emphasis Added)

Applicant respectfully asserts that Woods does not teach altering navigational options through the voice user interface (VUI) that are presented to the user based upon environmental information at the location of the user. In contrast, Woods merely teaches that navigational option through a VUI may be altered based upon information received from a user through voice recognition or manually entering information into a communication device (e.g. pressing keys on a phone pad). For example, col. 24 of Woods suggests a scenario where a user's phone number is captured through traditional Caller ID. A user is greeted with, "Hello Steve Woods. Please say your PIN or enter it on the numeric keypad." Col. 24, lines 44-45. The user then verbally responds by providing his PIN. Col. 24, lines 46-49. Based on this input, the navigational options of the VUI are changed by providing the user with options such as: weather, movies, traffic, stocks and sports. Col. 24, lines 49-51. The user then selects weather. Again, the navigational options change based on input received from the user. Col. 24, lines 55-60.

As such, altering navigation options of a VUI based on input received from a user is not the same altering navigation options of a VUI based on environmental information at the location of the user. Hence, Woods fails to disclose each and every limitation of claim 1. Therefore, claim 1 is not anticipated by Woods under 35 U.S.C. §102(e).

Claims 2, 3, 5 and 7-13 all depend upon and include the limitations of claim 1. Therefore, claims 2, 3, 5 and 7-13 are also not anticipated by Woods under 35 U.S.C. §102(e).

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejected claims 6 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over “Woods” as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent 5,970,446 by Goldberg et al. (hereinafter “Goldberg”).

Claims 6 and 14 depend upon and include the limitations of claim 1. As stated above in regards to claim 1, Woods fails to disclose altering navigational options through the VUI that are presented to the user based upon environmental information at the location of the user. In contrast, Woods merely discloses the altering of navigational options of a VUI based on input received from a user. Hence, Woods fails to disclose this limitation of claims 6 and 14.

Applicant also asserts that Goldberg does not disclose altering navigational options through the VUI that are presented to the user based upon environmental information at the location of the user. Applicant reserves the right to swear behind the effective prior art date of this reference. In contrast, Goldberg merely discloses the use of background noise models to determine what noise characteristics a telephone call may possess. Then, voice recognition is carried out use the appropriate background noise model. Goldberg, Abstract. Goldberg does not disclose the use of such environmental information used to alter navigational options in a VUI. As such, Goldberg also fails to disclose this limitation of claims 6 and 14.

If a reference does not disclose a limitation it cannot teach or suggest that limitation. As such, individually or in combination Woods and Goldberg fail to disclose each and every limitation of dependent claims 6 and 14. Therefore the combination of Woods and Goldberg do not make claims 6 and 14 obvious under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

Applicants respectfully submit that Woods does not suggest a combination with Goldberg, and Goldberg does not suggest a combination with Woods because Goldberg specifically teaches away from such a combination. Woods is merely concerned with altering navigation options of a VUI based on user supplied input. Whereas, Goldberg merely mentions the use of noise models to alter speech recognition within phone calls. It would be impermissible hindsight to combine Woods and Goldberg based on applicants' own disclosure.

The Examiner rejected claims 15-23 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over "Woods" in view of U.S. Patent 5,774,525 by Kanevsky et al. (hereinafter "Kanevsky").

In regards to independent claim 15, the Applicant asserts that the combination of Woods and Kanevsky do not make claim 15 obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), Claim 15 states:

15. A method comprising:
 - using user-specific contextual information to change a voice user interface;
 - using environmental information to change the voice user interface; and
 - altering the security characteristics presented to the user by the voice user interface based upon the environmental information at the location of the user.

(Emphasis Added)

As stated above in regards to claim 1, Woods does not disclose using environmental information to change the VUI. In contrast, Woods merely discloses the altering of navigational options of a VUI based on input received from a user. Hence, Woods fails to disclose this limitation of claim 15.

Applicant also asserts that Kanevsky does not disclose using environmental information to change the VUI. Applicant reserves the right to swear behind the effective prior art date of this reference. In contrast, Kanevsky merely discloses the use of security measures to prevent access to a user account by eavesdroppers. Kanevsky devises one or more questions based upon user information stored in a database, wherein the question(s) are presented to the user in order to prevent unauthorized access to a user's account. Kanevsky, Abstract. This is not the same as using environmental information to alter a VUI. As such, Kanevsky also fails to disclose this limitation of claim 15.

If a reference does not disclose a limitation it cannot teach or suggest that limitation. As such, individually or in combination Woods and Kanevsky fail to disclose each and every limitation of independent claim 15. Therefore the combination of Woods and Kanevsky do not make claim 15 obvious under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

Applicants respectfully submit that Woods does not suggest a combination with Kanevsky, and Kanevsky does not suggest a combination with Woods because Kanevsky specifically teaches away from such a combination. Woods is merely concerned with altering navigation options of a VUI based on user supplied input. Whereas, Kanevsky is merely concerned with providing security measures to

prevent unauthorized access of user accounts. It would be impermissible hindsight to combine Woods and Kanevsky based on applicants' own disclosure.

Dependent claims 16-23 depend upon and include the limitations of independent claim 15. Therefore, the combination of Woods and Kanevsky also fail to make claims 16-23 obvious under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

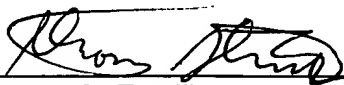
Conclusion

If there are any additional charges, please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2666. If a telephone interview would in any way expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Thomas S. Ferrill at (408) 720-8300.

Respectfully submitted,

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